
PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Application No: 200190506

Applicant: City of Laurel, Montana

Waterway: Yellowstone River

Issue Date: August 29, 2001

Billings Regulatory Office

1629 Avenue D, Building A

Billings, Montana 59102

NOTICE OF PERMIT ISSUED

Notice is hereby given that the City of Laurel, Montana was granted emergency authorization pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act on August 16, 2001 to construct a berm in the Yellowstone River in Sections 21 and 22, Township 2 South, Range 24 East, Yellowstone County, Montana.

The Corps of Engineers authorized the City of Laurel to construct a 300 foot long, five foot high berm utilizing approximately 950 cubic yards of streambed material. The proposed activity is located in the Yellowstone River at Laurel, Montana upstream of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad bridge.

The work was coordinated at an on-site meeting on August 16, 2001 with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Montana Department of Transportation and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Agency comments were incorporated into the special conditions of the permit.

The purpose of authorizing the project under emergency procedures was to enable the City of Laurel to direct river flows past the City's municipal intake structure to ensure an adequate water supply during low flow conditions in the river. The emergency authorization will allow the berm to remain in place so that flows to the municipal intake can be maintained during icing conditions this coming winter. The gravel berm will be removed prior to spring runoff. The berm is needed so that an adequate supply of water can be obtained for domestic water use, sewage treatment and fire suppression.

Following the spring floods of 1996 and 1997, the main river channel shifted from the left bank (intake side) to a position near the center of the channel. These channel changes and the subsequent instabilities appear to be the result of an abundance of bed material left behind by the floods. Since that time, the City has experienced difficulty in obtaining water at its intake structure, particularly during the winter months when freezing conditions in the river occur. As a more permanent solution, the City of Laurel is considering an auxiliary intake structure and is currently awaiting the outcome of an application for federal funding.

For additional information on the project, you may contact Mr. Larry Robson at the address shown above or by telephone at (406) 657-5910.



